

In re Application of: HAREL et al
Serial No.: 10/526,708
Filed: September 25, 2007
Office Action Mailing Date: July 19, 2007

Examiner: FLORY F.A
Group Art Unit: 3762
Attorney Docket: 34490

In the Claims:

1. (Original) A method of glucose level control, comprising:

providing at least one electrode adapted to apply an electric field to a pancreas;
and

applying an electric field to the pancreas using said at least one electrode such
that blood glucose levels are significantly reduced and blood insulin levels are not
significantly increased.

2. (Original) A method according to claim 1, comprising subsequently applying a
second electric field to said pancreas, which second field increases insulin levels.

3. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein said electric field is operative
to reduce glucagon secretion.

4. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein said electric field is operative
to reduce glucose secretion by a liver physiologically coupled to said pancreas.

5. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein said electric field is operative
to increase glucose uptake by cells in a body containing said pancreas.

6. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein said electric field is operative
to affect nervous tissue in said pancreas.

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7. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein said electric field is non-excitatory in that it does not substantially induce new bursts of islet activity in said pancreas.

8. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein said electric field is applied as a bi-phasic and charge balanced time varying field.

9. (Original) A method according to claim 8, wherein said electric field is applied for a short duration every period of time.

10. (Original) A method according to claim 9, wherein said period of time gives an application frequency of between 1Hz and 15 Hz.

11. (Original) A method according to claim 9, wherein said period of time gives an application frequency of about 5 Hz.

12. (Original) A method according to claim 9, wherein said duration is less than 30 ms.

13. (Original) A method according to claim 9, wherein said duration is about 10 ms.

14. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein said electric field is repeated for a period of less than 30 minutes.

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15. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein said electric field is repeated for a period of between 30 and 180 minutes.

16. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein said electric field is applied for substantially all of a duration of a glucose absorption event.

17. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein said electric field is applied prior to an expected glucose ingestion event.

18. (Original) A method according to claim 1, comprising triggering said electric field by a glucose ingestion event.

19. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein said electric field is applied irrespectively of an ingestion event.

20. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein said electric field is applied at least part of the time irrespective of a blood glucose level.

21. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein said electric field is applied continuously for at least 24 hours.

22. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein said electric field is applied for a period of at least 15 minutes without sensing of its effect.

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23. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein said electric field is of a magnitude and temporal extent so that it does not significantly change blood insulin and glucose levels in the absence of an ingestion event.

24. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein said electric field reduces blood glucose levels by at least 20% of an elevation of the glucose level above a fasting baseline glucose level.

25. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein said electric field does not increase blood insulin levels, as measured by an average over five minutes, by more than 20%.

26. (Original) A method according to claim 1, comprising, delaying a gastric emptying by applying a treatment to the stomach.

27. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein said electric field is operative to delay a glucose peak at least by a duration of its application.

28. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein said electric field is operative to delay a glucose peak at least by 10 minutes.

29. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein said electric field is operative to delay an insulin peak at least by 10 minutes.

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30. (Original) A method of glucose level control, comprising:

providing at least one electrode adapted to apply an electric field to a pancreas;
and

applying an electric field to the pancreas operative to reduce blood glucose
levels if elevated and not significantly reduce such levels if not substantially elevated.

31. (Original) A method according to claim 30, wherein said electric field reduces
elevated glucose levels by at least 20%.

32. (Original) A method according to claim 30, wherein said electric field does not
reduce unelevated glucose levels by more than 10%

33. (Original) A method according to claim 30, wherein said electric field does not
impair exocrine functions of said pancreas.

34. (Currently amended) Apparatus for blood glucose control, comprising:
at least one electrode adapted to apply an electric field to a pancreas; and
circuitry adapted to electrify said at least one electrode and configured to
electrify said electrode in a manner which compensates for a loss of acute response by
said pancreas, wherein said circuitry reduces or prevents a substantial increase in
insulin secretion during said compensation.

35. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 34, wherein said circuitry compensates
by causing the secretion of an insulin bolus.

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36. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 34, wherein said circuitry compensates by reducing glucose levels in a non-insulin manner.

37. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 36, wherein said circuitry compensates by reducing glucagon secretion.

38. (Cancelled)

39. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 34, wherein for at least 20% of ingestion events said circuitry applies only an acute control of insulin levels.

40. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 39, wherein said apparatus is programmed with a knowledge of a slow acting chemical-based insulin therapy provided to said pancreas.

41. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 34, comprising an automatic ingestion sensor for automatically detecting an ingestion event.

42. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 34, comprising an automatic glucose sensor for automatically detecting a situation requiring an acute response.

43. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 34, comprising an automatic glucose sensor for automatically detecting a situation requiring an acute insulin response.

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44. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 34, wherein said response is an acute insulin response.

45 - 48. (Cancelled)

49. (Original) Apparatus for blood glucose control, comprising:

at least electrode adapted to apply an electric field to pancreatic tissue; and
circuitry adapted to electrify said at least one electrode and configured to
electrify said electrode in a manner which reduces glucose levels and does not
substantially elevate insulin levels above a baseline value, when glucose levels are
elevated.

50. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 49, wherein said circuitry is a closed loop system including sensing of the effect of the electrification and wherein said circuitry is configured to over stimulate in cases of doubt.

51. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 49, wherein said circuitry is a semi-open loop system where a relatively long stimulation series is applied without feedback.

52. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 49, wherein said circuitry is an open loop system where a stimulation series is applied responsive to a trigger and without feedback.

53. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 49, wherein said circuitry applies a constant voltage field.

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54. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 49, wherein said circuitry applies a constant current field.

55. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 49, wherein said pancreatic tissue comprises an in-vivo pancreas.

56. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 49, wherein said pancreatic tissue comprises a pancreatic tissue implant.

57. (New) A method of controlling blood glucose after an ingestion event, the method comprising:

providing at least one electrode;

identifying an ingestion event; and

after said identifying, electrifying said at least one electrode to apply electric field to a pancreas, in a manner which applies only acute control of insulin.

58. (New) A method according to claim 57, wherein said electrifying is in accordance with a fixed protocol.

59. (New) A method according to claim 58, wherein said fixed protocol is configured for treating a specific patient.

60. (New) A method according to claim 58, wherein said fixed protocol is configured for treating a specific disease state.

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61. (New) A method of controlling blood glucose, the method comprising:

- providing at least one electrode;
- providing a fixed protocol; and
- electrifying said at least one electrode to apply electric field to a pancreas in accordance with said fixed protocol,

wherein said electrifying comprises electrifying irrespective of blood glucose level.

62. (New) A method according to claim 58, wherein said fixed protocol comprises electrifying said at least one electrode to provide a pulse series without synchronizing said pulse series to pancreatic activity.

63. (New) A method according to claim 58, wherein said fixed protocol comprises electrifying said at least one electrode to provide a pulse series irrespectively of an ingestion event.

64. (New) A method according to claim 58, wherein pancreatic electrical activity is not measured during said electrifying.

65. (New) A method according to claim 58, wherein said fixed protocol comprises periodic application of a pulse series.

66. (New) A method according to claim 58, wherein said electric field is repeated for a period of less than 30 minutes.

67. (New) A method according to claim 58, wherein said electric field is repeated for a period of between 30 and 180 minutes.